

# NEWS of PHOTOPLAYS and PHOTOPLAYERS

Arthur Leslie

## Bruce McRae With The Famous Players

To Star in "The Ring and the Man", the Romance by Cyrus Townsend Brady

Imperial Motion Picture Company Produces "Animated Songs" Rendered by the Human Voice to Accompanying Motion Pictures that Tell the Story of the Song

The Famous Players Film Company have secured the distinguished actor, Bruce McRae, who will shortly be presented in the popular romance of love and politics, "The Ring and the Man," by Cyrus Townsend Brady. The commanding personality and splendid poise of Mr. McRae fit him peculiarly for the role of Gormley, the man whose bravery and self-possession in the face of crucial circumstances enable him to successfully



ROBERT EDSON

oppose the corrupt forces of the gigantic political ring that is trying to ruin him. Among Bruce McRae's recent stage triumphs are numbered "The Lily," "Nobody a Widow," and "Nearly Married." Through an odd coincidence, as in the case of James K. Hackett and Cecilia Loftus, previous Famous Players stars, Mr. McRae began his stage career with Daniel Frohman, to whose management he now returns for his first appearance in motion pictures.



CLAIRE WHITNEY (Playing Leads With Solas)

In a new and exceedingly attractive form singing motion pictures, or "Animated Songs," are now offered to exhibitors by the Imperial Motion Picture Company of New York. The idea originated with J. Mahan and possesses the novel feature of presenting moving pictures, full of life and action, that accompany the human voice, instead of having a phonograph or other mechanical device accompany the pictures.

The practicality and the pleasing effects that result from the new method are illustrated in the first release, "In the Heart of the City that Has No Heart," that is daily winning hearty applause as it is sung before delighted audiences in New York City. The films for this song present ten scenes portraying the life of a young girl who leaves her country home for the big city and falls into the clutches of a horrid stranger who introduces her to the gay life of the metropolis and then deserts her. When, a year later, in her poverty and wretchedness she is about to cast herself into the river she has a vision of her old country home and the father and mother living there. The films are prepared so that they are run in the regular time and each scene fits verse and music as the singer sings it. When action starts in the picture the singer starts singing and song and reel come to an end simultaneously. Films and music of the song are supplied to exhibitors together. The pictures may be accompanied by a pianist who sings the songs, or by an orchestra and several voices, as the exhibitor pleases.

The combination of song and pictures is called the "Imperial Singing Pictures," and a long list of releases has been prepared embracing both new songs and old standard favorites.

"ANIMATED SINGING PICTURES" Quick booking gives territory Imperial Motion Picture Company, Inc. 176 B'WAY, NEW YORK CITY

## HOW THE VITAGRAPH TRIES OUT FEATURES IN ITS OWN THEATRE

Commodore J. Stuart Blackton Comes to the Front as an Actor—Drives his High-Speed Motor Boat in a Scene in "Love Luck and Gasoline"

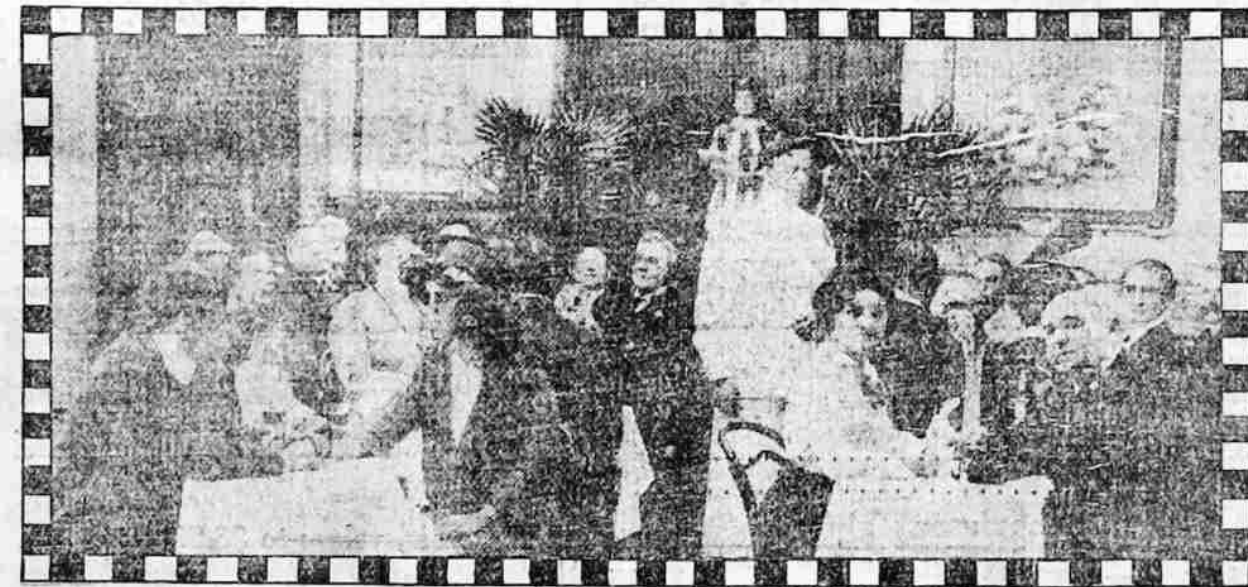
Moving picture patrons throughout the country are vitally interested in hearing how big features, which are first shown in New York, are received there, so that when they see them later, they know something about them.

The Vitagraph Theatre, in New York, continues to do a capacity business with "Mr. Barnes of New York" and "Love, Luck and Gasoline." In the former, Maurice Costello is ably supported by

Lawrence McGill, who is conceded to be one of the most brilliant directors of motion pictures. His long experience as a practical producer makes him invaluable. Many successes stand to his credit as director for the All Star, the Solax, the American Edna, and the Majestic. There is always an indefinable quality about his work which compels interest without revealing the mechanics of his art.



Scene from "A MILLION BIDS" (Vitagraph)



"IN THE HEART OF THE CITY THAT HAS NO HEART" (Imperial Singing Motion Pictures)

Mary Charleson, William Humphrey, Charles Kent, Naomi Childers, Darwin Karr, Donald Hall, Albert Gallatin, Robert Gaudard, Albert Roccardi, Adele de Garde, and S. Rankin Drew. In "Love, Luck and Gasoline," John Bunny is admirably assisted by Lillian Walker and Wally Van. Commodore J. Stuart Blackton, vice-president of the Vitagraph Company, and the holder of many world's records for motor boats, also portrays a part, and in the picture drives his famous racer at a terrific rate of speed. These two pictures are worthy successors to "A Million Bids" and "Goodness Gracious," which packed the Vitagraph Theatre for 250 consecutive performances, and which have been released for general exhibition throughout the world in incidentally the same manner as the most modest little picture ever produced by the Vitagraph. They have been hailed as the finest motion pictures ever made, so the country at large has a treat in store.



HERBERT BRENON (Imp.)

Two companies of Vitagraph Players are busily engaged in making pictures in remote corners of the United States. Capt. Harry Lambert is in Texas with a company producing six war pictures, in each of which the Department of Texas of the United States Army is being used. The scenarios were written by Col. Jasper Ewing Brady, formerly of the regular army, and who is with the Vitagraph in order to properly incorporate correct military details in the photoplays. Sidney Drew has another company in Florida. With him are Edith Storey, Ethel Lloyd and other famous film makers. He is producing "A Florida Enchantment."

## Ince, of Lubin, Falls Afoul of Black Hand

How Helen Dunbar, of Essanay, Won Fame on the Stage and in Pictures

John E. Ince, who appears in Lubin Films, while visiting in Italy a few years ago made the acquaintance of a reformed member of the Black Hand Society who was then starting a crusade to try and stamp out the harmful Italian organization. A few days ago Ince received from him a scenario with a plot intended to acquaint Americans with the peculiar methods of this notorious society. Somehow or other news of this effect reached the Italian settlement in Philadelphia, and a delegation of Italians, with the Italian Consul as

## TO STAGE A UNIVERSAL THRILLER AUTO PLUNGES OVER PALI'S PRECIPICE

Women Faint As Motor Carrying Human Figures Rushes Over Edge of Gorge in Honolulu and Falls 7000 Feet, to be Dashed to Fragments Below

A special dispatch from Honolulu says: "The realism striven for in motion pictures received tribute here to-day when six women fainted as a six-passenger automobile containing two people went plunging over 'The Pali,' a 7,000-foot precipice. A score of other people who came upon the scene just in time to see the automobile go hurtling into space were given thrills which lasted for hours afterward.

"The plunging of the automobile over the mountain side with its two human figures inside was a part of a two-reel drama, 'The Nation's Peril,' being staged here by a company of actors from the United States who are being taken on a trip around the world by the Universal Film Manufacturing Company. The two figures inside the machine were dummies.

"The Baited Trap," written by Monte M. Katterjohn, editor of the Universal Eastern Scenario Department, is going to be released in two reels for Universal exhibitors throughout the country. This is the production in which King Baggot and company have been appearing twice daily for several weeks at the Republic Theatre, New York. One of the most thrilling scenes in this film drama was acted out, just as it is done at a regular studio, on the stage by Mr. Baggot and his company, among whom are Frank Smith, Howard Crampton and Miss Pretty. When it is released it will be a regular film drama, Mr. Baggot playing the lead. It concerns an Irish boy who leaves his sweetheart and comes to this country. He is given work by a saloon-keeper who engages in the white slave business. This fellow sees the picture



"LUCILLE LOVE, THE GIRL OF MYSTERY" (Universal)



"BRONCHO BILLY-GUNMAN" (Essanay)

the chairman, called on Director Ince and asserted that if the photoplay was produced it would be very harmful to the Italians, who are citizens. In reply to this the Lubin-Leading-Man-Director said that he would render his decision at a later date, and the Italians are patiently waiting.

To have been for seven years a member of Weber & Fields' famous comedy company producing "The New Comedy" in the heyday of its brilliant success is a distinction of which any player may be proud. "For a real test of speed," says George Ade, "one should have a pacemaker." Helen Dunbar, now with Essanay, had no pacemakers during her service with Weber & Fields such shining lights as Wardfield, Sam Bernard, Pete Bailey, Fay Templeton, Lillian Russell, De Wolfe Hopper, William Collier, Charles Ross, Mabel Fenton and all the rest of that remarkable cast. That she was able to make good for seven years in such smart company is sufficient proof that she is possessed of more than ordinary ability.

As a motion picture actress her renditions are superb. There is something queen-like about Helen Dunbar and the goodness of her face is like a benediction to a picture. As a society matron she has only to be herself, as much of her life has been spent in a social atmosphere. She is equally lovable in or out of a picture and those who have been her guests at home are quite sure that there is no more charming hostess in the world than Helen Dunbar.

## Lasky Releases "The Master Mind"

Edmund Breese Again Stars in the Play that Won Nation-Wide Success

The Inimitable Wallingford and His Friend Blackie Daw to appear in Film Plays Written for The Colonial by Their Creator, George Randolph Chester

The Jesse L. Lasky Feature Play Company's production of "The Master Mind," with the brilliant dramatic star, Edmund Breese, in his original role, will be released May 11. Mr. Breese should make a capital screen actor. The story of "The Master Mind" in brief is:

Pledged to avenge the execution of his brother, whom the district attorney convicted and caused to be electrocuted, Henry Allen, formidable head of a gang of crooks, and known as "The Master



JESSE L. LASKY (Jesse L. Lasky Feature Film Co.)

Mind," educates his cleverest female crook and causes her to seek out and fascinate the district attorney. "The Master Mind" sends the female crook to Paris, educates her, then tells the district attorney that he will avenge the death of his brother. "You will receive the four aces, and when you see the ace of spades, death will be nigh."

The district attorney falls in love with and marries the crook. "The Master Mind" manufactures a family for her, from his array of criminals, then sets about to undo the district attorney. He plays on the lawyer's jealousies—finally provoking him into attacking one of his wife's friends. The female crook, tool of the master mind, falls in love with the district attorney, and finally prevails on the Master Mind to forgive and forget.

The Master Mind, who also loves the district attorney's wife, relinquishes his desire for revenge and takes his leave—to be seen no more.

Genial, good-natured Wallingford, whose deeds and misdeeds have secured prominently in the pages of the leading magazines, will disport himself in the future for the delight of the millions who patronize the "Movies." The Colonial Motion Picture Corporation has completed arrangements with George Randolph Chester, creator of the famous character, whereby he will write especially for the screen a new series of "Adventures of Wallingford," to be presented in film form as monthly two-reel features. The pictures will not be related in plot, although they will all be built around the persons of Wallingford and his inimitable side partner, Blackie Daw, and they will have no connection whatsoever with the play, "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford," produced by Cohan & Harris, as they are based upon entirely original incidents and situations. The humorous element is to be emphasized strongly in these pictures, and altogether they promise to be a real treat. It is understood that state rights will be sold on the feature, the films being offered in lots of six subjects or twelve reels at a time. The first release is scheduled for July.

In addition to being dean of motion picture directors of the country, one of the very few great artists in his line, and as past master in conceiving ideas, Otis Turner, of the Hollywood studios of the Universal, also is father confessor to many of the actors and actresses who make up the 17 companies of the West Coast organizations. Always kindly and soft-spoken in his dealings with others, Mr. Otis actors are always his "children." He addresses them as such, tolerates their mistakes with unfailing good nature, and never permits what is sometimes called "artistic temperament" to disturb the even tenor of his way. When not busily engaged in staging a production the veteran director is usually found off somewhere in a lonely corner listening patiently to the troubles of one of his "children."

The Jesse L. Lasky Feature Film Co. PRODUCERS OF SCREEN CLASSICS Long Acre Theatre Bldg., New York

RENEFAX MUSICAL MOTION PICTURES

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